

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

FAITH JENSEN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JASON SNEIDER, Police Officer; and  
LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF,  
Sheriff;

Defendants.

**8:18CV104**

**MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis ("IFP"). ([Filing No. 2.](#)) The court has received a certified copy of Plaintiff's trust account information. ([Filing No. 6.](#)) Plaintiff is permitted to proceed IFP.

Prisoner plaintiffs are required to pay the full amount of the court's \$350.00 filing fee by making monthly payments to the court, even if the prisoner is proceeding IFP. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)](#). The Prison Litigation Reform Act "makes prisoners responsible for their filing fees the moment the prisoner brings a civil action or files an appeal." *In re Tyler*, [110 F.3d 528, 529–30 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#); *Jackson v. N.P. Dodge Realty Co.*, [173 F. Supp. 2d 951 \(D. Neb. 2001\)](#).

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(1\)](#), Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee in the amount of 20 percent of the greater of Plaintiff's average monthly account balance or average monthly deposits for the six months preceding the filing of the Complaint. Here, the court finds the initial partial filing fee is \$39.40, based on average monthly deposits in the amount of \$197.00.<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff must pay

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<sup>1</sup> The court notes that the prisoner account certificate provided by Plaintiff's institution lacks clarity since it does not indicate whether the amount of \$197.00 reflects the average

this initial partial filing fee within 30 days or her case will be subject to dismissal. Plaintiff may request an extension of time if one is needed.

In addition to the initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff must “make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month’s income credited to the prisoner’s account.” [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#). The statute places the burden on the prisoner’s institution to collect the additional monthly payments and forward them to the court as follows:

After payment of the initial partial filing fee, the prisoner shall be required to make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month’s income credited to the prisoner’s account. The agency having custody of the prisoner shall forward payments from the prisoner’s account to the clerk of the court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 until the filing fees are paid.

[28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#). Therefore, after payment in full of the initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff’s institution must collect the remaining installments of the filing fee and forward the payments to the court.

Plaintiff is advised she will remain responsible for the entire filing fee, as long as she is a prisoner, even if the case is dismissed at some later time. See [In re Tyler](#), 110 F.3d at 529–30; [Jackson](#), 173 F. Supp. 2d at 951.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to Proceed IFP ([Filing No. 2](#)) is granted.

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deposits to or the average balance in Plaintiff’s inmate trust account. The authorized officer completing the certificate included a note that Plaintiff only had one deposit in her account at the time of booking and no deposits since then. (See [Filing No. 6](#).) Based on this reference to deposits, the court believes the certificate is intended to reflect the average deposits to Plaintiff’s trust account.

2. Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee of \$39.40 within 30 days, unless the court extends the time in which she has to pay in response to a written motion.

3. After payment of the initial partial filing fee, Plaintiff's institution must collect the additional monthly payments in the manner set forth in [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(b\)\(2\)](#), quoted above, and forward those payments to the court.

4. The clerk's office is directed to send a copy of this order to the appropriate official at Plaintiff's institution.

5. The clerk's office is directed to set a pro se case management deadline in this case using the following text: **April 13, 2018:** initial partial filing fee payment due.

6. Plaintiff is advised that, following payment of the initial partial filing fee, the next step in Plaintiff's case will be for the court to conduct an initial review of Plaintiff's claims to determine whether summary dismissal is appropriate under [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)](#). The court will conduct this initial review in its normal course of business.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2018.

BY THE COURT:

*s/ Richard G. Kopf*  
Senior United States District Judge